

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, said method comprising the steps of:

personalizing an original audio impression of the audio signal to said listener, said personalizing being performed by filtering said audio signal using a set of head related transfer functions comprising listener parameters being specific for said listener, and enabling the ability to identify the listener by comparing identified parameters in audio data with parameters being stored in a database.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the personalization is performed before distributing said audio signal to said listener.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Previously Presented) A method to claim 1, wherein the head related transfer functions have been modified in an substantially inaudible way, where said modification is performed by embedding information into the set of head related transfer functions before filtering the audio signal.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of playing back a distributed audio signal, wherein the audio impression of the audio signal has been changed according to first listener parameters being specific for a specific listener, comprising the steps of:

- detecting said first listener parameters used for changing the audio impression of said audio signal,
- comparing said detected first listener parameters with second listener parameters and
- playing back said changed audio signal if said detected first listener parameters identify a listener being identical to the listener identified by said second listener parameters.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the steps of:

- detecting said first listener parameters used for changing the audio impression of said audio signal and
- comparing said detected first listener parameters with second listener parameters, are performed by comparing the audio signal that has been changed according to said first listener parameters with a corresponding audio signal having been changed according to said second listener parameters.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein first and second listener parameters are parameters to be used in a set of head related transfer functions, and wherein the audio signal has been changed by filtering it using the set of head related transfer functions having listener parameters being specific for a specific listener.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the steps of:

- detecting said first listener parameters used for changing the audio impression of said audio signal and
- comparing said detected first listener parameters with second listener parameters stored locally

are performed by comparing the frequency spectrum of the audio signal having been filtered by the set of head related transfer functions having said first listener parameters, and the frequency spectrum of a set of head related transfer functions having said second listener parameters.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

- detecting information having been embedded into the head related transfer function before filtering the audio signal and, if the detected first listener parameters identify a listener being identical to the listener identified by said second listener parameters, playing back the audio signal according to the detected information.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for playing back a distributed audio signal, wherein the audio impression of the audio signal has been changed according to first listener parameters being specific for a specific listener, comprising:

- means for detecting said first listener parameters used for changing the audio impression of said audio signal and enabling the ability to identify the listener by comparing identified parameters in audio data with parameters being stored in a database.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the listener parameters in the set of head related transfer functions have been chosen between a number of sets of listener parameters each being specific for said listener, thereby allowing the listener to select an audio impression of specific interest.